

PARKS AND RECREATION NEWS

PARKS & RECREATION AUTUMN UPDATE

Hello Everyone from the Parks and Recreation Department. I'd like to begin this newsletter edition by thanking a handful of local volunteers who are doing their part to help make our City a great place to live, work and play!

-Waterville High School Senior **Connor Dolan**, along with Waterville native **Wally Donovan**, have been working away at Quarry Road since September making countless improvements to trails, roads, bridges and our snowmaking system. With their help, the area and trails are in fantastic shape this Fall!

-**Ben Bernier**, an Eagle Scout, also a Senior at Waterville High School, undertook an ambitious project last Fall to raise funds to plant Elm trees in the City. All tolled, Ben raised nearly \$2000. We're happy to report we were able to plant 6 beautiful Princeton Elms at Veterans Park. (note: the Princeton variety is resistant to Dutch Elm disease.)

-**William Jackson**, an 8th grader at Waterville Junior High School, also initiated an ambitious Eagle Scout project. William raised funds and devised a plan to rebuild bridges for our multi-use trails at Pine Ridge. We were all very impressed with the initiative and leadership William showed at just 12 years of age.



Thank you to all of our local volunteers who help to make Waterville a great place to live, work and play.

-**Sean Thomas**, volunteer coordinator for members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Sean organized a wonderful volunteer crew to help rake leaves and pick up branches at the Pine Grove Cemetery.

Civic Day

Civic Day 2017 took place Friday, October 6th. Each year Department Heads and City Councilors spend time with kids from the Alford Youth Center for a day of job shadowing and mentoring. The morning began with introductions in Castonguay Square, then moved onto Council Chambers for swearing in as our

young Council for the day. After the swearing in we had a great Q&A session with the kids and City staff. I have to say they asked some pretty interesting and pointed questions! From there, we took the kids to our respective facilities and showed them a bit of what we do. The program ended with lunch, certificates and thank yous at the Alford Youth Center. Special thanks to those that participated; *Mike Roy, Amanda Esler, Patti Dubois, Heather Rowden, Steve Soule, Chief Massey, Deputy Chief Bill Bonney, Lincoln Ryder, Cameron Huggins, Mark Hamilton, Karl Morse, and Sarah Taylor*. ALL great role models!

Quarry Road Trails Updates

On Saturday, November 4th, the community is invited between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm for the Quarry Road Trails Fall Festival in Waterville. All are invited to this free community event to enjoy fun activities, explore the trails and learn about winter programs, volunteer opportunities, recent updates and future plans. Family-friendly activities will include trail walks, a hill climb, hay bale maze, pumpkin bowling, apple slinging, bean bag toss, face painting and more. Common Street Arts and the Children's Discovery Museum will offer giant leaf art and science project activities. Cider making and fall refreshments will be provided at no charge and 92Moose will be on-hand with a live radio broadcast throughout the event. Participants are encouraged to bring their mountain bikes to try out the pump track or go for a ride on the trails. CeMeNEMBA and Mathieu's Cycle & Fitness will be available for mountain bike questions and will perform pump track demos.



Over the past ten years, the Quarry Road Trails have grown into a multi-use, four-season recreation destination. Discounted season ski trail passes are now available for the upcoming winter season at Quarry Road Trails. During the winter months, a state-of-the-art snowmaking system and daily grooming all but guarantees the trails will be covered for cross-country skiing. The area offers 10K (6+ miles) of trails for all levels of ability with lighting on 2K of trail for night skiing. Other opportunities for winter outdoor recreation on the Quarry Road Trails include snowshoeing and when conditions permit, winter fat biking. A full slate of events is already planned for the upcoming busy winter season.

Season ski passes are available at discounted pre-season rates through November 30th and can be purchased online at quarryroad.org, the Finance Department at Waterville's City Hall,

or the Alford Youth Center. Season passes and day passes will also be available 10:00 am-4:00 pm daily at the Welcome Center yurt beginning on the area's projected opening day, Saturday, December 2nd.

Volunteers are needed to help this winter in the following areas: staffing the Welcome Center, youth ski program, events, and trail maintenance. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities, call (207) 446-7356 or email volunteer@quarryroad.org.

Recreation Updates

And finally.... Our Fall Men's League softball has just wrapped up after a great season, and fall volleyball is nearly complete as well. Now it's time to switch gears into basketball season and special events. Once again we will be coordinating the Central

Maine Basketball Conference for 5th and 6th grade boys and girls travel basketball teams. We begin the season the weekend of December 2nd and will finish up in February. We're also preparing for our winter volleyball season, basketball tournaments and of course, our annual Father/Daughter Dance (March 2, 2018). Check out our facebook page for all the exciting events and sports program information.

Matt Skehan,
Director of Parks & Recreation